

AGM minutes 14th April 2025

Present:

Cate Hubbard, Mick Jones, Ian Campbell, Rick Meyer, Mike Powles, Tim Gilbert, Tom Howling, Trevor Pollard, Julian Mason, Mark & Gemma Dolman, Ned Campbell, Graham Portlock, Shirley White, Brian Randall, Hubby Frost, Sharon Frost, Mick Pearce, Gordon Ross, Steve Caley, John Holden, Trevor Roberts, John Martineau

Apologies:

Trevor Newman, Jasmin Forbes, Howard Gilbert, Alan Marshall, James French and Chris Pollard

Welcome:

Mike Powles addressed those present confirming that at the recent CIO Trustees meeting there had been changes to the board, with trustees John Holden, Howard Gilbert and Cate Hubbard resigning and the appointment of 5 new trustees Sharlene Budd, James French, Mick Pearce, John Martineau and Rick Meyer.

Mick Pearce explained that he saw the role as trustee as the “conscience” of the Club, to not interfere with management committee but to ensure that the Club adheres to its objectives as stated in the constitution.

Ian Campbell asked those present to take a moment to reflect on the passing of Richard Martineau, whose actions and those of his family have not only been generous but at the very heart of the Club.

Minutes from previous AGM: the last AGM was held in 2022, minutes agreed.

Matters Arising: None

Chairman’s Report:

The Club is in an extremely healthy position, not only financially but also in terms of volunteer value. As part of funding applications, we are often asked to quantify our value to the community. To calculate this, you multiply the number of volunteers by the number of hours and finally by an amount per hours. Volunteers are not just committee members but the grounds team, coaches, section committee members etc.

Our value to community came out at just under £200K per year, meaning that without the team of volunteers we are so fortunate to have we would need that amount to fund the facilities we currently offer.

We cannot afford to take our eye off the ball, we need to keep progressing and pushing forward not doing so would eventually see the club going backwards.

Treasurer’s Report:

As reported at the CIO Trustees meeting the results for our last full year show a bottom line for profits of £19,926, which is good. Update half year figures to the end of December 24 showed encouraging progress despite continued investment in assets. The contribution from our trading company WLWSC Ltd which operates the bar on a lease agreement has increased to £1500 per month reflecting satisfactory activity. The next few months will be interesting as wages increase. The importance of club events, parties etc will help us mediate the price of drinks to our members via the membership card.

The other major addition of income has come from the development of the Community Fitness Centre with Neil Evans which has clearly tapped into the local need for such a facility. The Club is very grateful to Neil for the hard work he and his family have put in.

Costs are reasonably under control, we have committed ourselves to a 3-year fixed price contract for electricity which was very beneficial in its first year and less so in this its final year. A further 3-year

contract has now been concluded taking us to January 2029, it is a reduction on the previous one, whether it was the correct move is in the lap of the Donald God- but it does give us a known cost for budgeting.

What does continue to go up is the cost of keeping the playing fields in the best condition; this has been greatly helped because of grants from the Football Foundation but these are tailing off now and more will need to be found from central funds.

Section treasurers are responsible for the day-to-day income and expenditure of their particular sport, a role that enable my and Tim's job to be manageable; I would like to thank them for the unseen hours they must put in.

Copies of the accounts are available via email if anyone would like them or on the Charity Commission website using our Charity Reg No. 1178033

Secretary's Report:

Whilst I did not have a report prepared for the AGM I would like to add here.

The Club and its individual sections continue to go from strength to strength and this is down to the hard work of the many volunteers and especially the drive of our Chairman Mike, although increasing the number of volunteers would always lighten the load for those currently involved.

I would like to thank all the volunteers from across the sections for their hard work, our Club wouldn't be where it is without you!

Senior Football Treasurer's comments:

The section is in a healthy position financially, the first team continues to run profitably, and the remaining teams break even.

Youth Football Treasurer's comments:

The finances are very healthy with more than enough in the sinking fund to cover the cost of replacing the 3G surface when the time comes.

Cricket Treasurer's comments:

Section has become much healthier financially over the last few years, mainly from the introduction of membership and individual player sponsorship. Our own sinking fund to cover the cost of the nets continues to grow steadily.

Questions/Comments from those in attendance:

Sharon Frost asked why the funding for pitches was tailing off, MP explained that the funds were agreed on a reducing sliding scale although there had been some discussions in general of future funding as many clubs felt that without this assistance pitches could possibly revert to a poorer state.

Mike Powles stated that all section bank accounts are checked each month to avoid potential financial problems and to allow the management committee to have an idea going forward with projects of potential assist form sections.

Tim Gilbert wished to add to IC's report that thanks to Richard Martineau and his family's generosity we have the significant financial security of owning the land on which we are situated.

Membership Secretary's Report:

Online renewals for the year continue to increase steadily, member numbers stand at 302 adults and over 200 children.

Mark Dolman asked how many of the gym members were also sports club members, MP confirmed that very few were. Neil does assist raising the profile of the Club and our social events by pushing

flyers etc to his membership and whilst it is an area, like the walking sports participants, that could be encouraged but as neither section is representing the Club it is not one we are likely to enforce.

Nomination of Officer's

Chairman- Mike Powles happy to continue, no further nominations received. Proposed MJ, seconded IC

Vice Chairman – Mick Jones standing down, he nominated Ned Campbell who was happy to stand. Proposed TG, seconded IC

Secretary – There has been a change to the role in that a minutes secretary, Sharon Conway has been recruited to take minutes for the CIO and Central Committee meetings.
Cate Hubbard happy to continue as secretary, no other nominations received. Proposed MJ, seconded TG

Treasurer – Ian Campbell happy to continue, no further nominations received. Proposed TG, seconded MP

Vice Treasurer – Tim Gilbert happy to continue, no further nominations. Proposed IC, seconded TP

Membership Secretary – Cheryl Powles happy to continue, no further nominations. Proposed CH, seconded MJ

A.O.B.

IC. Whilst attendance from outside the committee was disappointing it is vital that we continue to encourage others to attend. The point of the AGM is to offer transparency of how the Club is run and to encourage wider members and the community to have a say. Ned Campbell suggested we investigate the idea of using a QR code like that set up by the cricket section for safeguarding issues that could be scanned and lead to a secure platform (Club website) where comments/suggestions/complaints could be left.

Rick Meyer asked if MP could run through the current projects list.

1. Replacement of youth dug outs
2. LED video wall, replacing football & cricket scoreboards, would show live sporting events, TV, films etc
3. Gym extension/ fitness suite
4. 2nd bar accessed through function room and outside.
5. LED flood lights on main pitch, funding has been confirmed

Planning applications have been made for the bar, gym and LED video wall.

John Martineau asked if there were any other sports that the Club would like seen at the facility. MP confirmed that we are looking into Padel tennis as this seems to be rising in popularity and there is a lack of local facilities.

Mark Dolman and Tom Howling would like to explore the possibility of increasing the size of the 3G to full size, this would enable the numbers of teams to increase and increase private hire potential. To maintain FA accreditation ratings, we will need to investigate female football.

Mark Dolman asked if there is a vision for the Club's development/progress? MP answered that he sees "the Club's purpose as providing a facility for the local community, driven by the community needs and doing it profitably all year-round"

We are not a pub; we are a place to play sport and perhaps enjoy a drink afterwards. It has been proven that it is not viable for us to open 7 days a week.

We must continue to grow to succeed and accept that there may come a time when volunteers alone are not going to be sufficient to run the facilities.

Meeting Closed 8.25pm